



10TH ANNUAL

Raleigh Environmental
Awards

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Environmental Advisory Board

The Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) is a volunteer board established by the Raleigh City Council to provide expert and comprehensive advice on matters related to environmental quality and safety.

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10th Annual Raleigh Environmental Awards

2017 marks the 10th annual Raleigh Environmental Awards.

The ceremony recognizes outstanding environmental stewardship throughout the community. The City of Raleigh Office of Sustainability coordinates this event in collaboration with the City of Oaks Foundation and several City departments: Communications; Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources; Solid Waste Services; Stormwater Management Division, Engineering Services; and Transportation.



GOLD



AECOM

The City of Raleigh
PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

SERVING
Garner | Knightdale | Raleigh | Rolesville
Wake Forest | Wendell | Zebulon

HAZEN AND SAWYER
Environmental Engineers & Scientists

SILVER

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina | Dewberry | HDR
S & ME | SEPI Engineering & Construction
Sonoco Recycling | WasteZero | WRAL

FRIENDS OF THE PROGRAM

Dunklee & Dunham | Morningstar Law Group | Trophy Brewing Co.
Law Offices of F. Bryan Brice, Jr. | OBS Landscape Architects

Welcome | Mayor Nancy McFarlane

Video: 10 Years of Raleigh's Environmental Stewardship

Special Acknowledgments | City of Oaks, Bill Wallace

Presentation of 2017 Environmental Awards

Streams & Stormwater Competition

Trashion Competition

Built Environment | Purple Martin Community Farm at 5401 North

Education | Zero Waste in the Workplace at North Carolina State University

Emerging Business | Apiopolis

Individual | Greg Fishel

Legacy | Dr. Jean Spooner

Organization | Advocates for Health in Action & Wake County Planning

Urban Agriculture

A Kind Garden

Alliance Medical Ministry

Liberty Community Garden

Pam's School of Raleigh

Timberlake Estates

Urban Gardening At Urban
Ministries

A Safe Place Child Enrichment Center

Camden Street Learning Center

Joyner Elementary &
Wildwood Forest Elementary

Longview FFA Chapter

Women's Campus Healing Transitions

Raleigh Environmental Stewardship Award (RESA) | WakeUP Wake County

Closing Remarks



cityofoaksfoundation.org

CITY OF OAKS FOUNDATION

The City of Oaks Foundation believes in a great outdoors for a great Raleigh! The foundation believes that lives are made richer by nature and wants to keep nature nearby for all to enjoy. We are physically and mentally healthier when we are outside and active, and outdoor nature-play helps children build confidence and develop social skills. But Raleigh's natural open spaces and local wilderness lands are in danger of disappearing in our rapidly growing community.

The foundation works with Raleigh landowners to acquire and conserve natural areas that can be enjoyed, in perpetuity, by everyone and raises funds so that more children can participate in nature programs and outdoor summer camps. The foundation also partners with the City of Raleigh to sponsor programs such as the Raleigh Environmental Awards to showcase innovative ideas and responsible environmental stewardship in our community.

The City of Oaks Foundation thanks you for your support of this event and your help to ensure a great outdoors for a great Raleigh! For more information about the Foundation, please visit cityofoaksfoundation.org.



JULIAN SIMOES

STREAMS AND STORMWATER VIDEO COMPETITION

The Streams and Stormwater video competition recognizes high school students who create videos to inform the public about stormwater and the role we all play in contributing to the health of the City's waterways.

Students were invited to develop short videos to educate residents about the negative impacts of stormwater runoff. The submissions illustrate how simple steps like picking up after pets and properly disposing of litter can help prevent sending untreated water into Raleigh's lakes and streams, ultimately protecting wildlife and the environment.

1st Place:

Julian Simoes, "Be The Change"

Julian conveys how the public can play an active role in preventing stormwater pollution.

2nd Place:

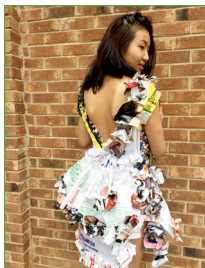
Chloe Wen, "Cup of H2O"

Chloe uses a unique hand-drawn approach to show how wash-water, pet waste, and trash impact water quality.

3rd Place:

Jacob Fletcher, Carla Fuller, and Anton Baeza "Chaplin's Lament"

Jacob, Carla, and Anton take an iconic and classic character to encourage the public to care about the environment.



MARY THUMA

TRASHION DESIGN COMPETITION

The 2017 Trashion Design Competition encourages individuals ages 14 and older to re-purpose materials destined for the landfill into a fashion statement.

Raleigh residents threw away more than 98,000 tons of garbage last year, or about 1,500 pounds per household. Solid Waste Services sponsors the Trashion Design Competition to encourage all of us to rethink our waste. Contestants were challenged to create an outfit where at least 75 percent of the materials were comprised of items that are ordinarily destined for the landfill or recycling center. This year's contestants responded with unique outfits that transformed familiar materials including newspapers, plastic bags, and bicycle inner tubes.

1st Place:

Mary Thuma, Rice Bag Dress

Mary reused rice bags to create a two-tier skirt and decorated the bodice with colorful stars made from magazine pages.

Honorable Mentions:

Sarah Evans Nicholson, Vintage Magazine Dress

Sarah layered paper and plastic to create a voluminous dress adorned with hand-rolled beads crafted from magazines.

Lindy Stark, "Sew-ups" Costume

Lindy designed an outfit made entirely from inner tubes donated by a local bicycle shop, painted and stretched into shapes inspired by ferns and stalagmites.



PURPLE MARTIN

BUILT ENVIRONMENT AWARD

Purple Martin Community Farm at 5401 North

This year's Built Environment Award acknowledges a project-in-process that represents a novel concept expected to influence other communities in the future. The Purple Martin Community Farm is a six-acre vegetable farm located within the Raleigh neighborhood of 5401 North. As envisioned, the project will encourage a strong, vibrant community centered around agriculture and healthy living.

Working with community partners, the farm will provide engagement opportunities for both adults and children, including growing vegetables and learning about healthy eating. Wake Technical Community College will provide student internships and apprenticeships in sustainable agriculture, ecology, culinary, and other continuing education classes.

Sustainable farming practices will be used on site, including the use of companion plantings in lieu of toxic chemicals and the use of hydroponics and low-volume subsurface irrigation to help conserve water. In keeping with the name, purple martin birdhouses will be erected around the farm and neighborhood to provide much needed habitat for this species.

The farm's many sustainability ideals support community cohesion, education, and economic prosperity while promoting a more positive ecological, social and economic footprint for many more residents.



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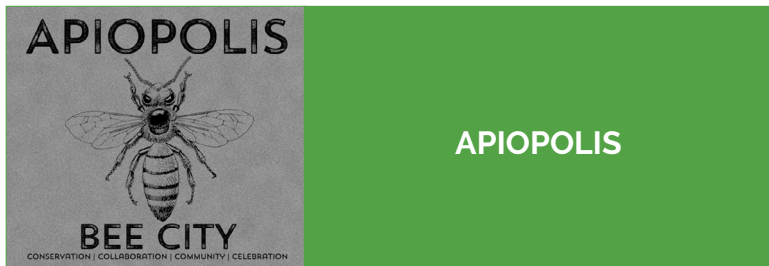
EDUCATION AWARD

Zero Waste in the Workplace at North Carolina State University

NC State University's Zero Waste in the Workplace (ZWW) program diverted more than 2,300 pounds of compost and increased recycling by 11.2 percent in three campus buildings during the last six months of 2016. ZWW's bin optimization program was so successful that 21 additional N.C. State buildings have requested the program this year.

ZWW replaces single-waste containers with smaller mini bins for landfill waste and adds compost bins in the break rooms and bathrooms. The program makes it easier for consumers to sort their waste and uses several strategies for education including Waste Champions to share waste diversion messages across campus and the community.

The Waste Reduction & Recycling office at NC State University has a goal of reaching a 70 percent waste diversion rate through source reduction, programs, efficiencies, and education. A comprehensive waste study performed in 2015 showed that NC State's waste stream contained 22 percent recyclable paper and 38 percent compostable food and papers, in spite of having hallway convenience sites and desk-side recycling. The ZWW program is a promising strategy to improve waste diversion.



EMERGING BUSINESS AWARD

Apiopolis, Alice Hinman

Apiopolis is a nonprofit urban bee sanctuary in Raleigh, founded and managed by Alice Hinman. The mission is to promote natural and sustainable beekeeping practices with a focus on conservation, education, and research. Apiopolis partners with businesses, organizations, and individuals to support this mission, while raising awareness about the harmful impacts of chemical herbicides and pesticides on pollinators.

With more sites planned for 2017, Apiopolis has 17 sites across the cityscape from rooftops to community gardens and vacant parking lots. There are plans to collaborate with organizations to create social programs and green jobs with a focus on food security and employment issues by offering natural beekeeping training to existing programs. Bees, like our community, do not work alone.

Honeybees and other pollinators are indicator species for environmental health, Hinman explained. She currently cares for about 60 colonies of bees.

**GREG FISHEL**

INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Greg Fishel

Greg Fishel, chief meteorologist for WRAL since 1989, is winner of the 2017 Individual Award. Greg is a dedicated science communicator with a great sense of humor. Greg's popularity and his professional integrity have made him a trusted voice for Raleigh and beyond.

Greg was a climate skeptic for many years, but changed his views. He used a scientific approach to test his hypothesis and evaluate the results. He explored the subject with leading scientists, communication, and religion experts to understand the science of climate change and to learn what changes had already occurred. This journey is chronicled in a documentary titled, "Greg Fishel: Exploring Climate Change." His writing on the subject thrust Greg into the front lines of a national debate. Greg will tell you that it's okay if you don't agree with him, just test your hypothesis using the scientific method and look at the results.

Greg has been active in the community, visiting schools, organizations, and events and by using social media. He was the keynote speaker at the 2013 Raleigh Environmental Awards and he is currently moderating the North Carolina Museum of Sciences' Town Hall series, "The Nature of Science." Greg is able to communicate in a practical, non-confrontational manner, making complex issues accessible to community members so that they can draw their own conclusions.

**DR. JEAN SPOONER**

LEGACY AWARD

Dr. Jean Spooner

Dr. Jean Spooner, a long-time Extension Professor and specialist in water quality at N.C. State University, exemplifies a lifelong commitment to improving the environment. After a 34-year career with the university, she continues to lead water and air quality projects in our area. Dr. Spooner has served as Director of the Soil and Water Environmental Technology Center (SWETC) and leader of the Umstead Coalition. Dr. Spooner has also been a leader in conservation efforts in Umstead Park, Crabtree Creek, and the Neuse River Basin.

Her passions and gifts are many! Dr. Spooner has used innovative and creative ideas such as photo contests, bike rides, and public-private partnerships to support efforts such as increasing public use of the Capital Area Greenway System. Her conservation and environmental efforts include helping raise more than \$45,000 in grants for the Umstead Coalition. She even helped recruit more than 7,000 volunteer hours in a campaign to preserve 106 historic cabins and mess halls built in by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and 40s.

Dr. Spooner continues her scientific and community engagement efforts to improve water quality and the environment. She has co-authored 34 journal articles, 23 extension fact sheets, served on 10 graduate committees, and provided leadership for 147 grants totaling more than \$25 million. She has served as keynote speaker nationally and internationally and belongs to numerous professional and honorary societies. Dr. Spooner embodies the qualities that the Legacy Award was created to honor.



AHA & WAKE COUNTY PLANNING

ORGANIZATION AWARD

Advocates for Health in Action (AHA) & Wake County Planning

Advocates for Health in Action (AHA) and Wake County Planning helped to advance an important policy change that makes it easier for urban agriculture enterprises in our area to succeed.

The Wake County Board of Commissioners approved the Agricultural Amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance in January. The amendment includes new provisions that allow farmers' markets and local agricultural markets. These changes strengthen economic growth by supporting farmers, boosting local food sales, and keeping agricultural land in production.

The update also impacts the health and social vitality of the community by increasing access to healthy food for the growing population of Wake County.

AHA has proven to be a strong advocate for our community by engaging leaders, businesses, and organizations to shape policies, systems, and environments that increase access to healthy food and physical activity. Partnering with Wake County Planning on this policy revision, the two organizations have been able to make a change that makes our community healthier.



URBAN AGRICULTURE AWARDS

The presence of agriculture in the urban environment positively affects the natural environment, the local economy, social relations, and household economic behavior, all of which contribute to the livability of the city. The Environmental Advisory Board established the Urban Agriculture Awards in 2015 to promote the benefits of urban agriculture.

A Kind Garden

A Kind Garden is located within a food desert. This award will help provide materials, tools, seeds, and benches to support an addition to the existing garden. Neighbors around the school will have access to fresh fruits and vegetables along with the opportunity to work together as a community in a central location with a common goal.

A Safe Place Child Enrichment Center

A Safe Place features its own production gardens where children, staff, and families commit to specific duties in the garden, making this a vibrant part of the curriculum. This practical approach has created a culture and expectation of healthy living for the child care program. There are also community-driven activities that bring neighbors together for learning and for fellowship.



Pam's School Of Raleigh

Using a "Farm to Tummy" philosophy, this award will help build exploration and production gardens. Math, science, art, and literacy are integrated into the gardening journey. The exploration garden will give children the hands-on experience of growing and cultivating produce they can touch, smell, and taste. The garden will grow produce to be used in their daily menus and to share with families.

Longview FFA Chapter

Longview FFA Chapter is an agricultural science program teaching middle and high school students the farm-to-table concept that includes innovative urban agriculture strategies and projects. The proposed hydroponics system will exhibit the reduced amount of space necessary for production compared to traditional garden spaces. The group has plans for additional bins and an in-ground pond for fish along with fencing for the existing chicken coop. Students complete the cycle by learning to compost using materials from the instructional kitchen. The Longview FFA program gives urban students the opportunity to become leaders, understand gardening techniques, and contribute to their communities through various supervised agriculture projects.

Alliance Medical Ministry Community Garden

Alliance Medical Ministry serves patients who face financial and physical barriers to fresh foods. The physicians provide wellness opportunities along with primary care. Access to healthy foods, hands-on nutrition and cooking classes, health education and exercise opportunities are offered through Alliance. The community garden is the focal point of the wellness program and patients harvest produce during appointments and classes. Through the Seed to Supper Program, patients learn how to test soil, design and lay out their own garden, how



to treat for pests, and the importance of an organic garden. In 2016, they harvested more than 2,000 pounds of produce and cultivated nearly 40 different kinds of fruits and vegetables including tomatoes, cucumbers, okra, squash, arugula, kale, spinach, basil, and radishes. In 2017, they plan to implement a crop rotation system, plant more perennial fruits and vegetables, and install bee hives.

Timberlake Estates

The Timberlake Estates two-acre pollinator habitat project will preserve areas of natural beauty in the neighborhood, provide education, and foster community engagement. This project will use organic management practices, while promoting greater ecological health, diversity, and an awareness of the need for such. Pollinators are among the first organisms to show negative reactions to environmental degradation. The award will be used for site preparation and purchase of seeds and plugs.

Liberty Community Garden At Cedar Point Apartments

The Liberty Community Garden is located in an area with a large number of recently resettled refugees. It was started in March of 2011, transforming an abandoned tennis court, and is a source of nutrition, exercise, recreation, education, and cultural diversity. Members consist of residents who live in the apartments, providing an opportunity to build community ties among refugee populations from different ethnic and language backgrounds. Select non-edible plants and flowers are grown in the garden for use in traditional ceremonies and celebrations, which are held in the garden area, providing an opportunity to share these traditions with others and pass them down through family members. In 2014, the garden became a "Certified Wildlife Habitat" by the National Wildlife Federation. In 2016, the garden produced more than 2,900 pounds of vegetables. The award will be used to purchase wood to upgrade the garden beds and to purchase seeds and plants.



Camden Street Learning Garden

In 2014, after two major grocery stores serving Southeast Raleigh closed, Inter-Faith Food Shuttle broke ground on the Camden Street Community Garden. The community garden is in a low-income neighborhood with four goals: 1) to be a model for the city, 2) to create a food access point in a neighborhood that experiences food insecurity, 3) to grow a sense of community, and 4) to cultivate self-sufficient residents. The community garden contains 32 raised beds for families to use and the rest of the site is designed for teaching. The space houses a 6,000 gallon rainwater cistern and a teaching kitchen that is a gathering place and classroom. More than 60 community members have graduated from the Seed to Supper gardening course taught in partnership with Master Gardeners of Wake County, and received all the supplies to start their own gardens. What was once a vacant lot covered in grass is now a model of environmental stewardship used to grow, feed, and teach a community. The award will be used for seeds, plants, and beekeeping equipment for a pollinator habitat

Joyner Elementary & Wildwood Forest Elementary

Joyner Elementary and Wildwood Forest Elementary schools are joining forces to help pollinators. At Joyner, an existing garden space will be modified to include native pollinator plants. At Wildwood Forest, an unused planting bed will be repurposed as pollinator habitat. Teachers can use these outdoor classrooms for experiential science opportunities. These hands-on opportunities will introduce students to the dynamic connections of the natural world at an early age. The schools envision being able to help pollinator species and the environment in a fun and educational way. Joyner and Wildwood schools hope to inspire other schools by creating an example for successful collaboration and support of the pollinator habitat planting initiative.



Women's Campus Healing Transitions

Healing Transitions is a nonprofit, peer-driven, long-term residential facility providing services to Raleigh's homeless and under-served individuals with alcoholism and other drug addictions. The program is designed to rekindle a person's desire and ability to return to a meaningful and productive life. Many residents who struggle with addiction also lack reliable access to affordable, healthy foods, and arrive malnourished. In 2014, Wake County Extension and Extension Master Gardener Volunteers partnered with the Realtors Foundation and the Natural Learning Initiative at NC State University to build an extensive vegetable garden at the Healing Transitions men's campus. This award will bring this program to the women's campus, providing a peaceful area of reflection for the women and their families.

Health And Nutrition Through Urban Gardening At Urban Ministries

"Eat Healthy to be Healthy" is the vision at Urban Ministries. Access to healthy food is the greatest barrier to healthy lifestyles for low-income families and two-thirds of Urban Ministries' crisis program clients live in or near Raleigh food deserts. The project's goal is to make home-grown, fresh, healthy vegetables available to low-income Wake County families as a means of promoting healthier lifestyles. Participating families will benefit in the form of fresh, healthy food supply; education on gardening; and the physical and psychological benefits of outdoor gardening at home.



RALEIGH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

WakeUP Wake County

WakeUP Wake County is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that has advocated for expanded public transit in the Raleigh area since 2008. They have successfully advocated, educated, and engaged citizens and decision-makers in supporting policies for sustainable, healthy, and livable communities.

WakeUP realized the need for more robust public transit options with the continued growth of the Raleigh area. They visited cities around the nation to learn how they connected their communities. WakeUP then began to organize and develop relationships that would bring the right players to the table in support of this effort, making it a highly diverse Wake County referendum campaign. WakeUP supported legislation to give Triangle counties the authority to hold a sales tax referendum to fund transit, which allowed a half-cent sales tax to be approved by Wake County voters in 2016. Efforts included a video of residents sharing the benefits of transit and a fun photo-op event. A video representation of 64 additional cars on the roads quickly secured more than 20,000 views and a Twitter and Facebook campaign called Riders of Wake posted a daily photo and personal narrative of someone sharing their transit story.

The improvements to the public transit system will result in fewer cars on the road, a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, improved air and water quality, and will provide citizens more opportunities to commute to high quality jobs.



The Environmental Advisory Board is thankful for its partnership with the City of Oaks Foundation, a local non-profit organization with a mission to keep nature nearby for all to enjoy, conserving land and connecting children with nature. The City of Raleigh Environmental Awards is in its 10th year, made possible by the generous donations from our sponsors.

The awards presented to our winners are handcrafted from locally repurposed wood or fallen trees by Bill Wallace of New Light Wood Works in Wake Forest. The environmental footprint of this event has been minimized with local renewable energy credits and carbon offsets to reduce the impact of electricity usage, car travel, and food preparation through a contribution to NC GreenPower. This is the approximate environmental equivalent to 9,104 pounds of coal not consumed, 12,403 days not driven, or 743 trees planted.

City of Raleigh Office of Sustainability
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